

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SAM-01 /071 W

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P 220600Z OCT 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6640

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PBX ORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PDORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

CINCPAC FOR POLAD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2178

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: PURGE OF THE RADICALS; OPEN MEDIA DENUNCIATION

REF: (A) PEKING 2174 (B) PEKING 2163

1. SITUATION AT 1200 HOURS LOCAL OCTOBER 22.

2. AT DAYBREAK ON OCTOBER 22 UNITS BEGAN TO MASS FOR THE MARCH TO TIEN AN MEN. TO ALL APPEARANCES THE SCALE AND CONTENT OF TODAY'S ACTIVITIES WILL BE A DUPLICATION OF YESTERDAY'S (REPORTED BY THIS MORNING'S NEWS TO HAVE NUMBER ONE AND A HALF MILLION PARTICIPANTS, A WHOLLY CREDIBLE FIGURE)

.
A STEADY DRIZZLE IS IN NO WAY DAMPENING THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE PARTICIPANTS; SMILES, HORESPRAY, VIGOROUS DRUMMING AND FLAG-WAVING ARE ONCE AGAIN THE ORDER OF THE DAY.

3. THE PEKING RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS BEGINNING AT 0600 HAVE CARRIED NO FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BUT IN COVERAGE OF
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YESTERDAY'S ACTIVITIES HAVE MADE REFERENCE TO THE NEW

REALITIES: HUA KUO-FENG IS NOW IDENTIFIED AS PARTY CHAIRMAN, NOT MERELY THE "HEAD" OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHILE WANG, CHANG, CHIANG AND YAO -- NAMED FOR THE FIRST TIME -- CONSTITUTED AN "ANTIPARTY CONSPIRATORIAL CLIQUE."

4. AMONG OTHER CRIMES, THE FOUR ARE CHARGED WITH:

--SCHEMING TO SEIZE "THE HIGHEST PARTY POWER"

--OPPOSING CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE IN BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

BOTH FORMULATIONS ARE NEW. WHILE THE FOUR HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY

ACCUSED OF PLOTTING A COUP, THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT THEIR IMMEDIATE GOAL WAS IN FACT THE PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP. (IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, WHETHER CHIANG CHING OR CHANG CHUN-CHIAO WILL BE SINGLED OUT AS MOST AVARICIOUS, IMMODEST, AND CONNIVING.)

5. OF FAR GREATER INTEREST IS THE INDICTMENT'S SECOND ITEM. OPPOSITION TO MAO'S "REVOLUTIONARY LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS" MAY ULTIMATELY BE DEFINED IN STANDARD -- AND IMPLAUSIBLE -- FASHION, WITH THE FOUR ACCUSED OF COLLUDING WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BUT IT STRIKES US THAT A MORE SERIOUS CASE COULD ULTIMATELY BE PRESENTED. SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIALS ARE ALREADY SPEAKING WITH REMARKABLE CANDOR TO FOREIGNERS ABOUT PAST OPPOSITION AND OBSTRUCTIONISM WITH REGARD TO TRADE POLICY (REF B). AND WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AND HIS ALLIES STOOD FOR AT LEAST A DIFFERENT EMPHASIS ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION THAN DO MODERATES LIKE LI HSIEN-NIEN.
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